

09/770,525

Page 6 of 8

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REMARKS

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action of January 30, 2006. Claims 23, 25, 28-30, 32, 33, 35 and 39-41 have been rejected by the Examiner in the Office Action; Claims 31 and 36-38 were objected to. The Examiner indicated that incorporating the limitations of the objected Claims into independent Claims 23 and 33 will advance the prosecution of this Application.

Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant cancelled Claims 31 and 36 and incorporated all limitations of Claim 31 in the amended independent Claim 23 and all limitations of Claim 36 in the amended independent Claim 33. Accordingly, Claim 23 now recites:

A security system for a computer network, the network having a plurality of devices connected thereto, the security system comprising:

- (a) a security subsystem connected to at least some of the devices in the network, the security subsystem configured to monitor activities of the at least some devices on the network and detect attacks on the at least some devices;
- (b) a master system which monitors the integrity of the security subsystem and registers information pertaining to attacks detected by the security subsystem; and
- (c) a first secure link connected between the security subsystem and the master system, the master system monitoring the integrity of the security subsystem and receiving the information pertaining to the attacks through the first secure link, wherein the master system further monitors whether the security subsystem responds to the master system, the master system taking action if no response is detected.

Further, Claim 33 now recites:

A security system for a computer network, the network having a plurality of devices connected thereto, at least some of the devices having security-related functions, the security system comprising:

- (a) a security subsystem associated with at least some of the devices in the network which tests the integrity of the security-related functions;

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09/770,525
Page 7 of 8

(b) a master system which monitors the integrity of the security subsystem and receives and stores results of the integrity testing of the devices having security-related functions; and
(c) a secure link connected between the security subsystem and the master system, the master system monitoring the integrity of the security subsystem and receiving the results of the integrity testing of the devices having security-related functions through the first secure link,
wherein the security subsystem or the master system initiates countermeasures upon detecting that the integrity of a device having security-related functions has been compromised.

Based on the above, amended Claims 23 and 33 are believed to be patentable over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance. Dependant Claims 25-30, 32, 35, and 37-41 are also patentable due to their dependency on amended Claims 23 and 33 and further on their own merits.

Applicant further added a new independent Claim 42 incorporating the limitations of the independent Claim 23 and the objected to dependent Claim 36. Claim 42 is believed to be patentable over the cited prior art.

As a result of this amendment, Claims 23, 25-30, 32-33, 35, and 37-42 are currently pending in the Application.

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09/770,525

Page 8 of 8

The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel at the number noted below if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance. In the event that any extension of time is required, Applicant petitions for that extension of time required to make this response timely.

Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit any surplus, to Deposit Account No. 50-0675, Order No. 881075-3.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 17, 2006

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